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Education,
Employment and the Economy

Lexington Rotary
July 19, 2012

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.
Kentucky Education Commissioner

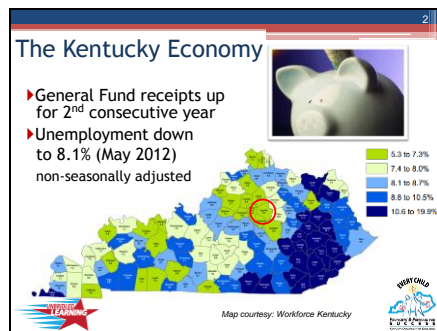
UNISOLED
LEARNING

College/Career Readiness for All

EVERY CHILD
Progress & Learning
Success

Good afternoon.

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I probably don't have to tell you that even though we're making progress, the economy nationwide and here in Kentucky still has not completely recovered from the Great Recession, especially here in the mountains.

The good news for the commonwealth overall is that **general fund receipts** were up for the second consecutive year – up 3.8 percent over fiscal year 2011 – exceeding the official budget estimate.

Statewide, **unemployment is down** to a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 8.1% in May. Fayette County fairs even better, reporting an unemployment rate of 6.2 percent in May – among the lowest in the state.

Overall though, economically, Kentucky is well poised to emerge stronger and more competitive than ever before and that does work in your favor.

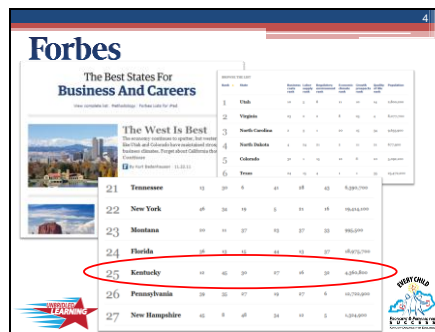
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According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Report, *Enterprising States*, Kentucky's lowest cost of living in the nation helps move it into this year's top ten for taxes and regulation; the state has also clocked in as the 12th fastest for job growth over the past two years.

The report goes on to say, "this is independent recognition of the strategic and sound approaches the state has taken to rebuilding its economy."

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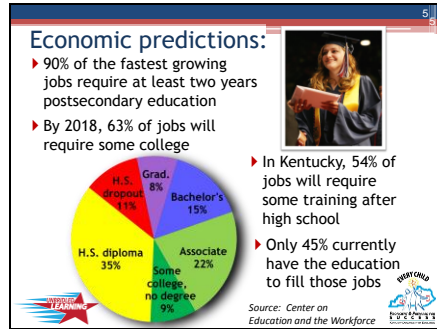


A recent *Forbes Magazine* Best States for Business list corroborates that positive business climate – with Kentucky moving up 19 spots – from 44th in 2008 to 25th this year. The state earned high marks for the relatively low cost of doing business and growth prospects.

Yet, a single indicator seemed to hold Kentucky back – in this study, we ranked 45th in labor supply, which measures college and high school attainment.

In the race to economic recovery, we're out of the gate strong. But will we stumble before reaching the finish line?

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According to the U.S. Labor Department, 90 percent of the fastest-growing jobs in America require at least two years of postsecondary education.

By 2018 it is predicted that 63 percent of all jobs will require some college, an Associate, Bachelor's or graduate degree.

54 percent of all jobs (1.1 million) in Kentucky will require some training beyond high school.




- 8 percent will require a graduate degree
 - 15 percent a Bachelor's degree
 - 22 percent an associates degree
 - And about 9 percent some college, but no degree.
-
- Yet currently only 45 percent of Kentucky's population has the education (some college or above) that will be required to fill those jobs.

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Many students are unprepared for the future

- ▶ A third of all students do not finish high school
- ▶ Up to half who do graduate lack the advanced literacy and math skills they need to succeed in postsecondary education or the workforce

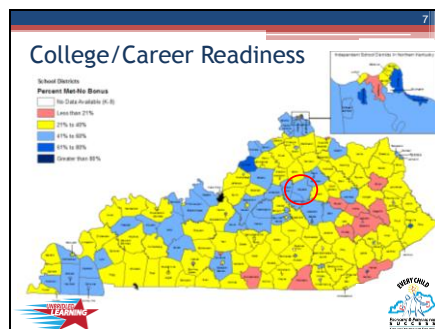




And while today's students are the workers of tomorrow, many of THEM are unprepared for the future they face.

Nationwide, a third of all students do not finish high school.

Up to half of those who DO graduate lack the advanced literacy and math skills they need to succeed in postsecondary education and the workforce.

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In **Kentucky**, only **38 percent** of our students are prepared for college/career.

On the map, the blues show those districts with the highest percentage of students who are prepared, the pinks those that are least prepared – based on ACT scores, college placement tests or students meeting career-ready academic or technical benchmarks.

In **Fayette County**, **49 percent** of the students were college/career ready as of last fall. New figures will be out this fall and we expect to see an increase.

And while Fayette County is doing better than most of the state, that 49 percent figure means more than half of the students still aren't considered

ready for life after high school.

We have to do better.

Kentucky's future economic health depends on a well-educated workforce. New academic standards, along with our push to ensure college and career readiness for all students, will help the state improve student achievement and graduation rates and provide students with the skills they need to be successful after high school.

The support of the business community is crucial in this work, and we need local chambers of commerce to serve as the standard-bearers for our efforts.

If Kentucky is to remain globally competitive and if our citizens are to enjoy a comfortable standard of living, we can no longer just focus on employment and the economy, but must also focus on the third "e" – education.

We have to find a way to keep kids in school and on target for college/career readiness.

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Our Vision:



Every child proficient and prepared for success



Our vision is: Every child – every child, proficient and prepared for success – success is defined as college **and/or** career ready.



We recognize that not all students will go to college – but hopefully **will** pursue some OTHER postsecondary training.

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College/Career Ready

College Ready: the level of preparation a first-time student needs in order to succeed in a credit-bearing course at a postsecondary institution. *Succeed* is defined as completing entry-level courses at a level of understanding and proficiency that prepares the student for subsequent courses.



Career Ready: the level of preparation a high school graduate needs in order to proceed to the next step in a chosen career, whether that is postsecondary coursework, industry certification, or entry into the workforce.



In the 21st century, being college-and/or career-ready means students are well rounded and can actively participate in a democratic society as informed citizens, critical thinkers and innovators. It is critical that the educational system engage and motivate each student to be prepared for meaningful work and citizenship.

We define:

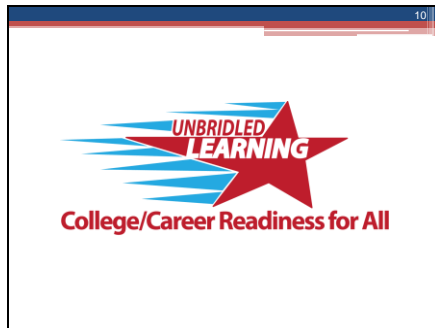
College Ready: the level of preparation a first-time student needs in order to succeed in a credit-bearing course at a postsecondary institution. In this case, *succeed* is defined as completing entry-level courses at a level of understanding and proficiency that prepares the student for subsequent courses.

Career Ready: the level of preparation a high school graduate needs in order to proceed to the next step in a chosen career, whether that is postsecondary coursework, industry certification, or entry into the workforce.

According to the Association of Career and Technical Education, career readiness includes core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills to concrete situations in order to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities; employability skills, such as critical thinking and responsibility, that are essential in any career area; and technical, job-specific skills related to a specific career pathway.

So now we know what we're aiming for – the question becomes how do we get there?

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Our plan is called Unbridled Learning and the focus is College/Career Readiness for ALL.



At the heart of the plan: Senate Bill 1 – passed by the 2009 General Assembly. It provided the roadmap for transforming public education in Kentucky – a roadmap for Unbridled Learning.

Senate Bill 1 established an aggressive readiness agenda.

Briefly, the legislation called for:

- New, more rigorous academic standards aligned with college entry requirements
- New assessments based on those standards
- Program Reviews in Arts & Humanities, Practical Living/Career Studies and Writing, to encourage high-quality programs and plentiful student learning opportunities in these areas.
- Improved professional development including strategies to support implementation of the new standards and assessment literacy, among others.
- A new balanced and more relevant accountability system that holds students, teachers, principals, schools and districts accountable for progress
- Developing a unified plan for improving college/career readiness in cooperation with the Council on Postsecondary Education

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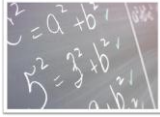


With a charge to develop new standards, we wasted no time in joining the Common Core Standards Initiative, a national coalition coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).



- In February 2010, the Education Professional Standards Board, Kentucky Board of Education and Council for Postsecondary Education unanimously adopted the new English/Language arts and mathematics standards making Kentucky the first in the nation to do so. This is significant for several reasons – it signaled a new cooperative spirit and shared vision among the three entities AND placed Kentucky among the leaders nationwide in education reform once again. Since then 45 states and the District of Columbia have followed suit and adopted the Common Core Standards.
- The new standards are internationally benchmarked, which should make our students more competitive globally.
- They are to be aligned across all levels – from elementary to high school to college so students can be successful at each educational level.

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New Standards



- ▶ Clearly state what students are expected to learn and when
- ▶ More rigorous and relevant
- ▶ Fewer in number but require a deeper level of understanding
- ▶ Kentucky Core Academic Standards taught and assessed for the first time in the last (2011-12) school year



- The new standards clearly state what students are expected to learn and when.

- They are more rigorous, more relevant and aligned to today's college and workplace demands with many 21st century skills embedded within.

- And there aren't as many of them so they can be taught to a deeper level of understanding.

Students will need to use more critical thinking and learn concepts more in depth than they have before.

- The Kentucky Core Academic Standards in English/LA and Mathematics, as they are now known, were taught and assessed for the first time in the last school year – again making Kentucky among the first, if not the first, in the nation to do so.

A word of warning here, because the new standards are more rigorous and since students haven't had that same level of rigor leading up to this year, there is a potential for student performance drop temporarily in the short term. When and if that happens, we need you to help us stand firm in support of the new standards with the realization that it will be best for Kentucky in the long term.

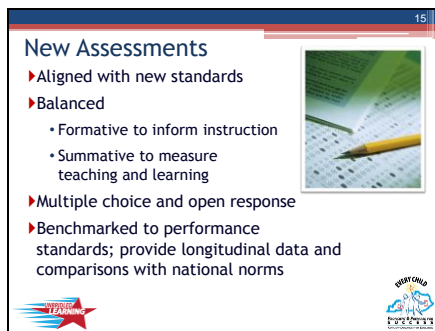
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Kentucky is also being recognized nationally for the method by which it is providing support and professional development to effectively implement the new standards – Regional Leadership Networks.

The vision is that we build capacity for excellence at the local level – that every district in the state has a knowledgeable and cohesive leadership team that guides the professional learning and practice of all administrators, teachers and staff in the district so that every student experiences highly effective teaching, learning and assessment practices in every classroom, every day.

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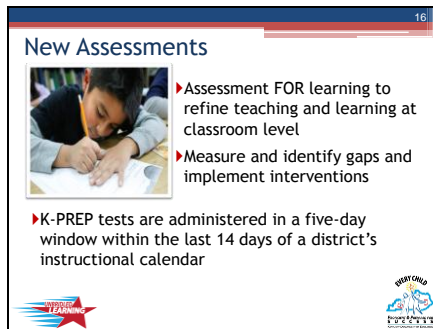


The second major requirement of Senate Bill 1 was to develop and implement new assessments.

- They had to be aligned with the new standards and curriculum.
- They must be balanced including formative, interim and summative assessments.
 - Formative assessments throughout the school year gauge a student's progress and inform instruction.
 - End of the year or end-of-course summative assessments measure the effectiveness of both teaching and learning.
- New state assessments include multiple choice as well as open response questions.
- The assessments are benchmarked to

performance standards; provide longitudinal profiles for students; and provide comparisons with national norms.

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Slide 16: New Assessments

▶ Assessment FOR learning to refine teaching and learning at classroom level

▶ Measure and identify gaps and implement interventions

▶ K-PREP tests are administered in a five-day window within the last 14 days of a district's instructional calendar

The slide features a photograph of a young student writing on a piece of paper. At the bottom left is the 'Florida Department of Education' logo, and at the bottom right is the 'Florida Department of Education' logo.

We are also emphasizing assessment FOR learning in order to provide diagnostic information that identifies student strengths and weaknesses in the content areas and enables teachers to improve instruction and provide appropriate interventions or enrichment.

The new assessments will also allow us to measure and identify gaps and implement interventions aimed at reducing them.

The state assessments, which are known as K-PREP tests – which stands

for Kentucky
Performance
Rating for
Educational
Progress – are
now being
given later in
the school year,
in a five-day
window within
the last 14 days
of a district's
instructional
calendar.

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Testing for the 2011-12 School Year						
GRADE	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	EPAS
3	✓		K-PREP			
4	✓	EdU/Mech.	K-PREP	✓		
5	✓	On-demand	✓		✓	
6	✓	EdU/Mech. and On-demand	✓			
7	✓		✓	✓		
8	✓	On-demand	✓		✓	EXPLORE
9						
10	End-of-Course English II	On-demand	End-of-Course Algebra II	End-of-Course Biology	End-of-Course U.S. History	PLAN (Used to meet required testing of editing/mechanics)
11		On-demand				ACT
12						

As in the past, Kentucky's public school students will be tested each year in a variety of subjects – reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing.


Middle and high school students will also take EXPLORE, PLAN and the ACT to assess college readiness and identify areas where they may need additional instruction.

High school students will also take end-of-course exams in English 2, Algebra 2, Biology and U.S. History. Other end-of-course assessments will be added in subsequent years. And in an effort to increase student accountability end-of-course exams will count at least 20 percent of a student's final course grade. If they don't, the district will have to explain why not.

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Next-Generation Accountability System

- ▶ Balanced approach that incorporates all aspects of school and district work
- ▶ Based on continuous improvement
- ▶ Emphasizes high standards with the goal of college/career readiness for all students
- ▶ Quick look at school/district performance
- ▶ In-depth details about academic growth, achievement gaps, academic progress, college/career readiness and graduation rates
- ▶ First based on testing this spring



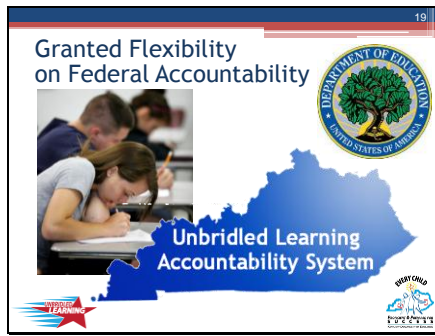
Of course all those tests will feed into the state's new accountability system.

Kentucky's Next-Generation accountability model:

- Takes a balanced approach that incorporates all aspects of school and district work
- Is based on continuous improvement
- Emphasizes high standards with the goal of college/career readiness for all students

- Provides a quick look at school/district performance
- Includes in-depth details about academic growth, achievement gaps, academic progress, college/career readiness and graduation rates
- First based on testing this spring

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As you are probably aware, the U.S. Department of Education recently granted Kentucky flexibility on No Child Left Behind. We are one of the first states to receive such consideration.

What that means is that instead of two accountability models – state and federal, now we will have just one – Kentucky's Unbridled Learning Accountability System – focused on the goal of college- and career- readiness for all our students.

The federal waiver means that we will be able to focus our resources on the areas of greatest need and challenge our students and educators with continuous improvement.

This DOES NOT mean we are giving up on our minority students. Quite the contrary.

After spending two years developing our system and getting feedback from a variety of stakeholders, we feel the Kentucky system is fairer, balanced and takes into consideration measures

beyond just student achievement.

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It also includes student academic growth, graduation rate, readiness for college/career and includes a measure on closing achievement gaps – on which schools will have to show progress. That's the Next Generation Learners component that started this past school year.

Starting this fall, in the 2012-13 school year, the Next-Generation Instructional Programs and Support kicks in. This includes Program Reviews (mandated by Senate Bill 1) in:

- Arts and Humanities
- Practical Living/Vocational Studies and
- Writing
- additional Program Review areas are to be included in upcoming years

Program Reviews are designed to focus on instructional improvements.

The goal is to ensure access for quality programs in these areas.

While schools will be conducting Program Reviews this

School year, they won't be included in the accountability model until the

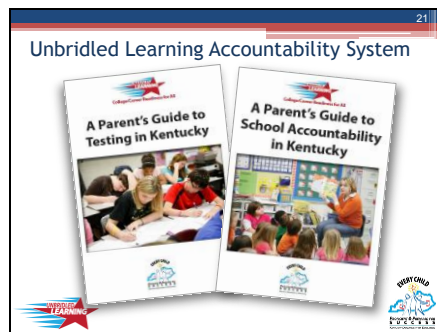
following school year.

And the last to come on line will be Next-Generation Professionals. This will include measures of:

Effective Teachers and Leaders and will be tied to our Professional Growth and Evaluation System that is currently in development.

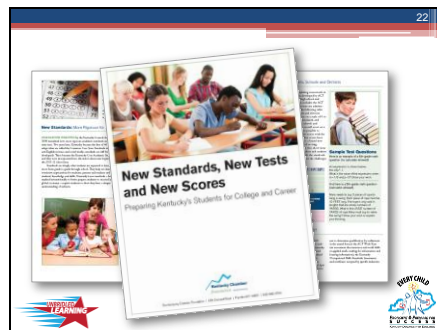
This will help ensure quality teachers in all of our classrooms and effective leaders in all of our schools.

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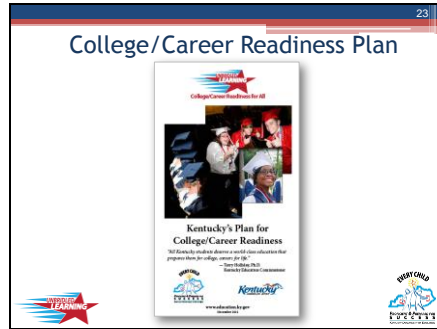
If you'd like to know more about Kentucky's new assessment and accountability system, I would encourage you to download these two brochures from the KDE Website www.education.ky.gov. They are available by following the Unbridled Learning logo that you see on the bottom left of the screen.

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You can also find this brochure that the state Chamber of Commerce has produced. Any of these brochures will provide you with a good understanding of the recent changes in Kentucky's public education system.

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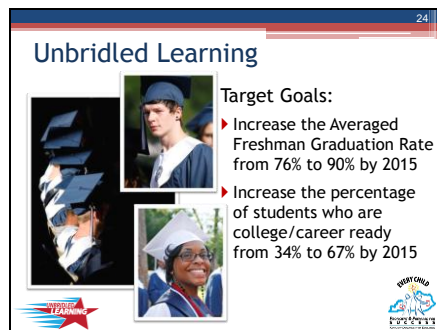


And that brings us full circle, back to the issue of College/Career Readiness.

As required by Senate Bill 1, we have developed a plan and in the process identified some specific strategies to increase college/career readiness.

You can find them detailed in this brochure (hold up brochure). I have some copies and it's available on the same Unbridled Learning page of the KDE website as the previous brochures

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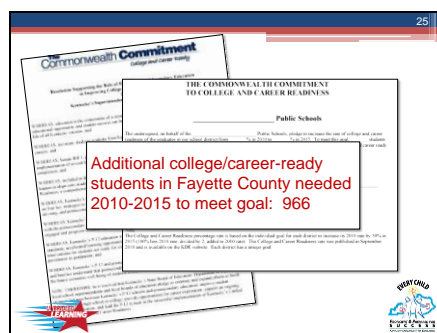


We have established some target goals to keep us moving forward with an eye toward College/Career Readiness for ALL:

- Increase the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate from 76% to 90% by 2015

- Increase the percentage of students who are college/career ready from 34% to 67% by 2015

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In support of these goals, I asked all our superintendents and board of education chairs to sign a pledge – the Commonwealth Commitment – a vow to improve the readiness rate in their high schools by 50 percent by 2015.

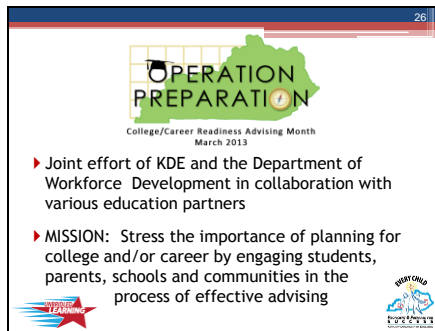
I'm pleased to report, all the districts, including Fayette County, signed on – in fact we have 100 percent support statewide.

To meet this goal in Fayette County, an additional 966 students would need to be

college-/career-ready by 2015. A very achievable goal.

But this isn't just a job for the schools. Businesses and communities must be involved.

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One way you might get involved is through Operation Preparation. Just as we did last year, we're encouraging all our districts to take part in this event. It supports the ongoing advising process - one of our college/career ready strategies, and is designed focus students on preparing for their future.

We've expanded it from just a week in the spring to the entire month of March to make it easier for large districts like Fayette County to participate.

Operation Preparation matches community volunteers with 8th - and 10th- grade students to discuss student career interests, whether students are on track to achieve their goals and what they can be doing now to prepare for life later on.

The Mission? Stress the importance of intentionally planning for college and/or career by engaging students, parents, schools and communities in the process of effective advising.

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So there you have it: Unbridled Learning, Kentucky's plan for college/career readiness for ALL.

Keeping kids in school. Preparing them to be college/career ready. Ensuring a well-trained workforce.

It's the right thing to do for our kids.
It's the right thing to do for our state.

With your help and support we can make it happen and we all will benefit....

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College/Career Readiness for All

...through improved education,
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